Task Force Phoenix picks up Afghan Police mission

AFGHANISTAN – Task Force Phoenix V is adapting to take on the mission of training the police force in Afghanistan.

“It’s like a team sport,” said Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, task force commander. “We don’t win until all players cross the finish line, not when the ANA (Afghan National Army) finishes two years before the ANP (Afghan National Police).”

Three years ago, DynCorps International, a company that specializes in training police forces around the world, was contracted by the Department of State (DOS) to train Afghan police forces and take some of the burden off deploying Soldiers. As with the ANA, the biggest challenge has been teaching the police accountability of personnel and equipment and properly managing logistical assets.

“The military had obtained, and had in country, logistical goods that could be disbursed accountably,” Dan White, DynCorps International trainer said.

The decision was made to incorporate both ANA and police missions into one joint national campaign.

“Affghanistan is a fluid battlefield situation. DOS wanted to fit the police training to a battlefield situation that would compliment the ANA. They need to work side by side,” White said.

Pritt also said the ANA and Afghan police should complement each other and work together to provide security.

“We need a balanced Afghan National Security Force,” Pritt said. “We need both the army and police to be at approximately the same level of professionalism.”

Training and mentoring the Afghan police will create new challenges and demands in the task force, but it is vitally important to the security of Afghanistan that the Afghan civil order police demonstrate riot procedure at the grand opening of the central training center in Kabul, Afghanistan. Most of the instruction at police training centers is given by senior Afghan policemen with American military and civilian contracted mentors.

Oregon loses beloved son, brother

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan - Oregon Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Long Nguyen, 27, of Portland, Ore. died Feb. 10 of non-combat related causes in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. Nguyen was assigned to the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which is currently deployed in Afghanistan with Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V.

“Today is a sad day for Task Force Phoenix; we have suffered a tragic loss of a dedicated Warrior. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family during this difficult time,” Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, commander of CJTF Phoenix V, said in a press release from Afghanistan.

Nguyen was born in Viet Nam on June 27, 1979 and moved to Portland with his parents at age 3. He grew up in Portland with two brothers and a sister and graduated from Madison High School in 1996. Nguyen maintained close relationships with his family.

After high school Nguyen enlisted in the Army in 1998 and served as a supply specialist for the 82nd Airborne Division. During his active duty service he deployed to Kosovo.

Governoirs, adjutsants general support DoD’s new 12-month mobilization policy

 story by Lt. Col. Lee A. Melynk, Oregon National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — The nation’s governors and adjutants general have expressed their universal support and appreciation for the recently announced change to Department of Defense policy that will limit total mobilization time of Guard and Reserve units to 12 months.

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In a Jan. 11 conference call attended by representatives from every state, the territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of National Guard Bureau, answered questions and addressed concerns about the deployment extension in Iraq of Minnesota’s 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ announcement that several Defense policies were changing.

The Guard’s leadership in the states reacted enthusiastically to several policy changes announced by Gates on Jan. 11.

Chief among these changes was, from this point forward, Guard and Reserve mobilizations will be managed on a unit basis, not an individual basis. Gates also announced that involuntary mobilizations would be for a maximum of one year.

That is “in contrast to the current practice of 16 to 24 months,” he said.

The defense secretary also stated that the goal would be to have five years of demobilization following every year of mobilization. He acknowledged, however, that “today’s global demands will require a number of selected Guard and Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than this standard.”

Gates further directed the development of an incentive program to compensate individuals who are required to mobilize or deploy early or remain on duty beyond the time limits set by the new policy. Details of the program have not yet been announced.

“Within that is means that Soldiers that are extended will be paid for that overtime, so to speak,” Blum said. “So would Guard troops who get mobilized more than once every six years.”

Governors and senior National Guard leaders have called for policy changes of this type for the last few years. Many Soldiers complained about the amount of time spent away from home in mobilization training before deploying overseas.

With the announcement of the new policies limiting total mobilization time to one year, Blum stated “your Citizen-Soldiers will only be away from their families or jobs, and their hometown units for the maximum period of one year in the future, starting with the next mobilizations coming up.”

“The World War II and Cold War post-mobilization model is dead. The new model is right for an operational force of 21st century Citizen Soldiers,” Blum added.

Reducing total mobilization or remobilization time will have a dramatic impact on how Guard units train for and deploy to combat. Training conducted during inactive duty weekend drills and annual training periods will gain importance as a measure of readiness.

Unim commanders and their adjutants See New Policy on page 7

Story by Lt. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Oregon Air Guard to appear on Fox Television series, page 6

Story by 1st Lt. Amanda Straub, Oregon Army National Guard Public Affairs

See Nguyen on page 8

See Nguyen on page 5

See New Mission on page 5

Sgt. Long Nguyen at his work station in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. Nguyen worked as a property book specialist handling supply and equipment needs of the warriors in Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V.

See page 5

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Story by Spec. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

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Our support of Governor Kulongoski’s

In everything we do, we must intentionally erode our ability to perform the mission. I simply can’t afford to live dishonestly. Whipping training reports, cover up tech data and honesty. As Airmen, we are entrusted with the trust and confidence of the people of our state. All of this activity is focused on improving conditions for the military community in Oregon, whether it is for the Guard, reservists, active duty members or veterans. This legislative session is another opportunity for our elected officials to continue their support. In addition to the support from our off-

I read some articles from Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley while thinking about what it means to be an Airman. I want to share with you, and then share a few thoughts of my own.

If you’re on an Army post and shout, “Hey, Soldier” you’re likely to have everyone turn around in response. However, on an Air Force or Air Guard base, if you try the similar “Hey, Airman” your only responders will be our youngest Airman. Why is that? Are we not all Air-

I am an Airman. I act with truthfulness and honesty. As Airmen, we are entrusted with the greatest calling, protecting our country and our way of life. Because of our unique profession, we can’t pencil-whip training reports, cover up tech data via official channels or slightly document our progress. We simply can’t afford to live dishonestly. Dishonesty breeds mistrust, and mistrust erodes our ability to perform the mission. In everything we do, we must intentionally do it in truthfulness and honesty. As an Airman, I will willingly sacrifice myself for the benefit of the team. Being part of a team requires self-sacrifice and selflessness more than the efforts of any military warrior. Performing as a team requires a “less of me and more of us” mindset. We have to give up whatever we think we need in order to accomplish the mission. With
together, we can solve this identity crisis. Being part of a successful team requires sacrifice.

I am an Airman. I care passionately about fellow Airmen. No other profession calls for compassion more than that of a military warrior. As warriors, we have an additional duty to our brothers and sisters in arms. We must promote a culture of reliance on one another in order to accomplish the mission. With out compassion, we will lose trust in our teammates, and the mission will fail. We must care passionately for each other.

I am an Airman. I am accountable for my actions. Individually, we are responsible for upholding the standards. We must live up to the concept, “I am responsible.” All of us, whether officer or enlisted, for upholding the standards. We must live up to the concept, “I am responsible.” All of us, whether officer or enlisted,.

The bottom line: If you choose to engage in the use of illegal drugs, we will eventually find out, and we will take you out. How do we find you? It is really simple. A part of our organization, the Oregon Substance Abuse Program (OSAP), is conducting urinalysis (UA) testing at the unit level. What is OSAP? It is Oregon’s version of the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). It is a comprehensive program with punitive measures and mandatory disciplinary actions designed to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard and to enhance the combat readiness of its personnel and units by eliminating alcohol and other drug abuse.

How are we going to do that? In the past most of the UA testing was conducted during SRP’s and units only tested randomly if they tested at all. That changed though. National Guard Bureau set a mission of 56 percent UA testing annually, with a goal of 60 percent unit testing annually. Oregon has a minimum requirement of 50 percent annual testing; units are to test quarterly and annually. SRP’s to monitor the Oregon training center. The end goal is that every Soldier in the Oregon Guard will be tested at least once a year, either at SRP, AT or drill.

This last year Sgt. 1st Class Riverman, who manages the OSAP, spent a great deal of time training Unit Prevention Leaders (UPL) and now each unit in the state has at least one UPL to manage unit testing. In addition, Riverman also assists with conducting testing at the unit level. This testing occurs at the units during drill and also during their annual training time and SRPs.

The bottom line: If you choose to engage in the use of illegal drugs, we will eventually know about it. It will affect your job, your position, your money and the respect of your fellow Soldiers.

“Hey, Airmen” What does wearing Air Force blue mean to you?

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Rising Stars: Crawford and Yriarte promoted

Crawford to help oversee troops in Cuba

Yriarte oversees 82 Brigade as flag officer

Cameron Crawford is pinned with his new rank of brigadier general by his wife, Karen, and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Charles Yriarte is pinned with his new rank of brigadier general by his wife, Chris, and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Story by Spc. April L. Duxtin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Cameron Crawford of Salem was promoted to brigadier general in a formal ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center on Jan. 19. The ceremony was attended by his family: wife, Karen; daughters, Sara and Melissa; and parents, Doug and Jeanie Crawford. Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski also attended the ceremony.

Upon being promoted, Crawford left his position as commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tigard, to assume a one-year assignment as the deputy commander of Joint Task Force – Guantanamo Bay.

Crawford will help oversee nearly 2,000 service members and daily operations, to include detainee operations, of JTF – Guantanamo Bay under the command of Navy Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris.

“I’m very excited to represent the Oregon National Guard in such a high visibility environment,” said Crawford.

There are approximately 400 detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay, including suspected members of the Al Qaeda and senior leadership of the Taliban alleged to have direct knowledge of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Crawford said detainee operations at Guantanamo Bay keeps them off the battlefield and provides valuable intelligence in support of the global war on terror.

“It is our goal of the day’s about leadership and making sure service members there are doing the right thing; executing their mission to legally and humanly detain enemy combatants, and secondarily, collecting intelligence on the war on terror,” said Crawford.

Crawford said the promotion and new duty assignment is the culmination of 30 years of military experience, and his unique qualifications have prepared him for this type of mission.

Crawford, a West Point graduate, joined the Oregon National Guard in 1993 after serving 14 years on active duty serving in many capacities as an officer in the Military Police Corps and a six-month tour gathering intelligence in the Persian Gulf War. In addition, he has a Master of Arts in Correctional Administration from Western Oregon University, where he also served as an assistant professor of forensic science. Crawford speaks fluent Spanish, which he said will help him lead the many National Guardsmen from Puerto Rico who comprise the large portion of the JTF-GTMO.

Crawford and two other Oregon Army National Guardsmen, Capt. Abe Gilman of Salem and 2nd Lt. Tiffany Ramsdal of Monmouth, joined members of the Puerto Rico National Guard at Fort Lewis, Wash. for one month of training before deploying to Cuba in February.

Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard visits Oregon units

PORTLAND, Ore. - Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith visited Oregon Air National Guard units throughout the state Nov. 29 – Dec. 3. He is the only sitting Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard to have visited Oregon.

Smith began his visit at the Portland Air Guard Base with an early morning meeting with 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Steven Gregg.

“It was wonderful to interface with the ANG command chief,” Gregg said. “It was great to sit down and talk with him and to showcase the Oregon Air Guard.”

Gregg spoke with Smith about wing concerns including how the recent outcome of the Bush v. Gore and Closer Commission (HRAC) has affected the units throughout the state. Key issues during the discussion were the impact the HRAC changes have brought about – including the 173rd Fighter Wing’s additional positions, and the ongoing shutdown and transition of the 936th Air Refueling Wing. Another important question was how to reconnect with the Active Duty Air Force during the upcoming year.

“We’re thrilled that the Air Guard is working side by side with their active duty counterparts at the staff level. It’s a positive step,” Smith told Gregg.

While at the PANG Base, Smith visited with section personnel before attending a town hall style meeting. About 200 Airmen voiced their concerns, ranging from promotions to base facilities. Smith stressed the importance of the Air Force’s Physical Fitness program.

“If you haven’t taken part in the run, you WILL run. It’s a readiness issue,” Smith said. He also addressed other issues concerning training, including those related to the recent Air Force-driven realignments.

Throughout his visit, all eyes seemed to linger over Smith’s uniform. He was wearing one of a handful of the new Air Force prototype uniform, which is scheduled to be phased in over the next few years, starting in 2007-2008 with individuals going through Air Force basic training. Others can purchase the uniform for around $75, or wait till their units receive their allotment.

Smith visited with various units throughout the Portland Air Base, stopping to view an engine demonstration at the “hush house”. On his third day in Oregon, Smith headed to Camp Rilea in an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk, to visit with members of the 116th Air Control Squadron. After touring the facility, he held a short question and answer session in the briefing room before heading back to Portland.

On his last day in Oregon, Smith visited with the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls where he met with several Chief Master Sergeants. The group discussed administrative and promotion issues before heading to the Kingsley Theater for Klamath Falls’ town hall meeting. Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing packed the hall, and spent about an hour quizzing Chief Smith on all manner of issues related to the Air Force.

Smith then enjoyed a holiday celebration, Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees spoke to the gathering.

“If you look back on the things that Charlie’s done in his career to be successful and to lead our Soldiers you have to really admire an individual who has traveled the distances, put in the miles, maintained civilian employment and a family without missing a beat,” said Rees.

“Rees has been a great demonstration of what being a traditional Guardian is all about,” said Yriarte.

Yriarte enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard in February 1971. He served nine years as an enlisted Soldier before graduating from the Idaho Military Academy in June 1980. Upon his commission as a second lieutenant, he branched as an Armed Guard’s officer and served in many positions within the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, working his way up to battalion executive officer and battalion commander.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in general studies from Eastern Oregon State University in La Grande, Ore. and a Masters Degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Before his selection as the 82 Brigade (TC) commander, Yriarte served as the director of personnel for Joint Force Headquarters in Salem from June 2004 to February 2006. Prior to that, he commanded the 82 Rear Operations Cell and was mobilized with the unit to Iraq, where he first served as the operations officer of V Corps Kuwait and then as base commander of LSA Anaconda in Balad.

Prior to commanding and deploying with the 82 ROC, Yriarte served as the 82 Brigade (TC) executive officer and operations officer.

Yriarte and his wife reside in Canyon City, Ore. They have two sons, Darren and Jamin; a daughter, Shelesha Kelso and son-in-law David.
Chinook from Det. 1, D Company, 113th Aviation based in UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 1042nd Medical flew More than 50 hours in four days during a high-profile search mission in the Mt. Hood National Park region of Oregon in mid-December.

The search for three missing climbers was a collaborative effort between the Oregon Air and Army National Guard, the 304th Rescue Squadron – an Air Force Reserve unit based in Portland, the Hood River and Clackamas County Sherriff’s Offices, and several ground rescue teams.

“Whether you were Oregon National Guard, Portland Mountain Rescue, government official, or private volunteer, there was a single-minded focus to bring these climbers back,” said Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Michael Braibish.

Braibish was a spokesperson for the Oregon National Guard in the days following the initial search, appearing on CNN, ABC and NPR News, and even in an interview with Katie Couric as this high-profile search placed a national spotlight on the Oregon Guard’s search and rescue capabilities.

According to Hood River County Sherriff, Joe Wampler, there was a single-minded focus to bring these climbers back,” said Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Michael Braibish.

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According to Greenwood, on the morning of Monday, Dec. 18, the CH-47 was sent up to the summit with rescue crews once again with the intent to bring James back down. Because weather conditions were sketchy at best, it was decided by incident management that it was in everyone’s best interest to hoist James from the mountain using a UH-60 Blackhawk. That decision would prove to be prophetic, as it would take ground rescue crews almost five hours to prepare James’s body for the hoist operation and to move him 300 feet to the summit.

“At that point we brought in the Blackhawk and did the hoist operation, recovered James’ body and took him to an ambulance exchange point where he could be taken by ground transportation to the funeral home,” Greenwood said.

The disappointment of not finding James alive was compounded by the decision to call-off the search for the other two climbers. “It was very difficult finding one of the climbers and not finding the other two,” said Braibish. “We did everything we could.”

New name, same mission; Oregon Army aviation units undergo transformation

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff

As part of the Army’s Transformation program, the Oregon Army National Guard re-designated two of their aviation units in formal re-flagging ceremonies.

On Dec. 3, Detachment 2, Lima Company, 151 Aviation Maintenance, was renamed Detachment 3, Bravo Company, 351 Aviation. The unit is based in Pendleton.

Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte spoke to a crowd of about 200 Soldiers, family members and friends. Yriarte spent some time at Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Iraq while the unit was deployed there from January 2004 to February 2005, and lauded the members for their service and sacrifice.

The unit guidon was ceremoniously cased by unit commander Chief Warrant Officer Doug Walker, unit first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class James Stanley, and 641st Medical Evacuation Battalion Commander, Maj. Thomas Lingle.

Also during the ceremony, representatives of Boeing Aircraft Corporation were presented with employer awards for their support of the Oregon Guard’s aviation units. Robert L. Soxby, Deputy Director for CH-47 Chinook Programs at Boeing, presented the Oregon National Guard with limited edition, custom-framed Chinook posters as a token of gratitude for their working relationship.

On Jan. 6, the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) guidon was ceremonially cased symbolizing the deactivation of the unit, and a new guidon was uncased signifying the activation of Charlie Company 7/158 Aviation.

The Salem-based unit also transferred authority in a change of command ceremony. Capt. David A. Strayer assumed command of the company from outgoing commander Maj. Mark A. Ulvin.

Every year the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1042nd Med. Co. (A) supports dozens of search and rescue operations led by civilian authorities, performs fire fighting missions, and conducts training with emergency first responders throughout the state using their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

The unit deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, including the mobilization of 35 soldiers to Afghanistan from July 2005 to March 2006, and 108 soldiers to Afghanistan from May 2002 to September 2003.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Raymond P. Rees spoke of the organizations continuity in professionalism and their capacity to get the job done as “Marvelous,” not only in domestic search and rescue operations, but also in firefighting, but also overseas.

Both aviation units, C Co. 7/158 in Salem and Det. 3, B Co. 351 in Pendleton, will continue to support their state and federal missions as they undergo reorganization.
Fighting corruption in Afghanistan; Police training improves professionalism

Left: Experienced Afghan police train in the Transitional Integration Program, a refresher course to review police techniques, learn justice and fairness under the law, humane treatment of suspects and prisoners, and training on the new constitution of Afghanistan. The program is one tool used to fight internal corruption and reform the Afghan police force.

MAZAR-E SHARIF, AFGHANISTAN – Reforming the Afghan police force is a difficult challenge that Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V is tackling head on in Northern Afghanistan. The U.S. military personnel make up the Regional Police Advisory Team (RPAT) at Echo Base, a regional training center just south of Mazar-e Sharif.

The mission of the RPAT is to provide advice, counsel and guidance to the police headquarters and regional commands in order to support command and control of police operations, management of logistics, personnel and finance, and administrative functions, ultimately resulting in an independently functioning regional police headquarters.

Therehymization of the police forces in the North is a model of the country-wide reformation happening all over Afghanistan. Commonly referred to as the ANP, Afghan police forces are multi-faceted and face many challenges in operating effectively to secure Afghanistan and protect its citizens.

The biggest issues faced by security forces in the north are not Taliban and Al Qaeda, they are warlords, drugs and highway robbery. The northern forces are last on the country-wide priority list to receive personnel, supplies, and facilities.

“We can’t just give two billion dollars in equipment to the police,” Shope. “We have to train them on all the equipment techniques and maintenance and ensure that they use the equipment responsibly and maintain accountability.”

The Ministry of Interior, in conjunction with coalition forces, hopes to curb corruption in the police force and shape it into an organization that can be trusted to protect and defend the people of Afghanistan and combat terrorists and insurgents alongside the Afghan National Army.

“It’s a challenge, but it’s doable,” Shope said. “Nothing in Afghanistan is easy or fast. We can not be in a hurry. It will not happen overnight.”

At Echo Base, coalition forces are combating corruption through the use of a Transitional Integration Program (TIP). The regional training center trains new police recruits in the north, but the TIP is specifically geared toward police officers who have been working for 20 or 30 years.

“We built the Afghan Army from the ground up with a system of checks and balances in place,” Dan White, DynCorps trainer said. “With the police we are trying to reform old habits.”

Right: Two senior Afghan policemen demonstrate the proper use of a baton to subdue suspects. New recruits as well as policemen in the Transitional Integration Program receive instruction on the proper use of force and human rights at the regional training center.

White believes the best way to combat corruption is through educating the upper leadership in the police force. Over the course of the five-week TIP, policemen are exposed to training in constitutional law, use of force, penal code, responding to domestic violence, charge tolls at illegal checkpoints, and sell their equipment in order to make enough money to feed their families.

Shope says the problems with the police force can not be fixed with money alone. “We can’t just give two billion dollars in equipment to the police,” Shope. “We have to train them on all the equipment techniques and maintenance and ensure that they use the equipment responsibly and maintain accountability.”

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Right: New police recruits receive instruction from a senior Afghan policeman on hand-to-hand combat with a rifle. The training for new recruits is conducted at Regional Training Centers in Mazar-e Sharif. Most instruction is given by senior Afghan police with American military and Special Operations Forces contracted mentors.

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“At Echo Base, coalition forces are combating corruption through the use of a Transitional Integration Program (TIP). The regional training center trains new police recruits in the north, but the TIP is specifically geared toward police officers who have been working for 20 or 30 years.

“We built the Afghan Army from the ground up with a system of checks and balances in place,” Dan White, DynCorps trainer said. “With the police we are trying to reform old habits.”

Right: New police recruits receive instruction from a senior Afghan policeman on hand-to-hand combat with a rifle. The training for new recruits is conducted at Regional Training Centers in Mazar-e Sharif. Most instruction is given by senior Afghan police with American military and Special Operations Forces contracted mentors.

White believes the best way to combat corruption is through educating the upper leadership in the police force. Over the course of the five-week TIP, policemen are exposed to training in constitutional law, use of force, penal code, responding to domestic violence, charge tolls at illegal checkpoints, and sell their equipment in order to make enough money to feed their families.

Shope says the problems with the police force can not be fixed with money alone. “We can’t just give two billion dollars in equipment to the police,” Shope. “We have to train them on all the equipment techniques and maintenance and ensure that they use the equipment responsibly and maintain accountability.”

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Oregon’s Eagles land in Hollywood

Kingsley Field to receive new aircraft

Story by Capt. Lucas Ritter, 173d Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Kingsley Field will replace its aging F-15B model aircraft with F-15C and F-15D models from Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida from now until July.

In all, the 173d AMXS will accept 10 new aircraft and relinquish six, bringing the total aircraft on base to 25. The older models will go to a military boneyard in Arizona.

According to base commander, Col. Tom Schiens, the base also plans to hire 50 new employees to service the additional jets and instruct student pilots.

A team from the 173d Maintenance Group traveled to Tyndall AFB in January to perform inspections on the first four F-15s slated to arrive at Kingsley Field, said Capt. Caleb Klick, the team leader.

“We got to see the aircraft in person and do a walk-around. We had to take pictures and document everything,” said Klick. “We worked closely with the Tyndall team and looked out for each other. We are the Air Force family!”

The aircraft will replace the F-15B model and be used primarily for training purposes.

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Larry Schneck, U.S. Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office

LOS ANGELES — Through the clouds above a dry, remote airfield in Southern California, Col. Tom Schiens and Lt. Col. Matt Andrews punched a hole in the sky and maneuvered their F-15 Air Superiority Eagles in position for landing.

A catastrophic attack on the United States had just taken place and the U.S. Air Force now filled the sky with lethal air power. The impressive flexing of muscle is breath-taking to view from the ground - and on the screen.

This is not a military mission to secure the Nation’s air space, but rather a military mission to support the Fox Television series “24.” The aircraft and personnel from the 173d Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, as well as personnel and equipment from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. are appearing as “background extras” and “set dressing” for an episode of the Emmy award winning series.

The jets and pilots should appear in an episode airing sometime in March, but the Airmen won’t know how much time their planes or faces will be on the screen until they see the episode.

A producer from a “24” crew, worked closely with the Air Force Public Affairs Entertainment Liaison Office in Los Angeles to position air power in the scenes filmed in December on location at Mojave Airfield in Mojave, Calif.

The pilots feel the experience is similar to many other opportunities that adorn the popular show to create the “TV visuals” of a nation at war against terrorism. The Entertainment Liaison Office reviewed the request, got approval from the Pentagon, and then located available aircraft, personnel and locations.

The tradition of Hollywood working with the Air Force dates from the early years of American film-making. The first “Best Picture” Oscar was given to a silent film about U.S. Army Air Corps pilots battling the Central Powers in World War I. The motion picture titled, “Wings” launched this on-going relationship between the film industry and America’s military. The Air Force takes this cooperation seriously. Military leaders realize the value of enhancing realism in scenes on the big and small screens. By using actual fighter aircraft and Airmen, the production company gets added storytelling power and enhanced realism in scenes on the big and small screens. By using actual fighter aircraft and Airmen, the production company gets added storytelling power and enhanced realism in scenes on the big and small screens. By using actual fighter aircraft and Airmen, the production company gets added storytelling power and enhanced realism in scenes on the big and small screens.

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In exchange for appearing in TV and motion pictures, Air Force personnel and equipment donated $1,000 to Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds at both installations.

The money will be used to benefit the base during a function to say thank you to the troops for a job well done,” said Col. Schiens, base commander at Kingsley Field.

Smith: “Airmen take care of Airmen!”

Continued from PAGE 2

The most dramatic than Basic Military Training. Earning the title of “Airmen” is commemorated with ceremony and the chance to don the Air Force blue uniform for the first time. This emotional event gives the trainees an identity within our organization – they are now Airmen in the greatest Air National Guard unit in the world. The sought-after title of Airman is one that each of us has worked hard to obtain. Our level of professionalism is equal to the immense responsibility each Airman carries as we continue to fight the Global War on Terror. We don’t send “kids” into battle; we send highly-trained and well-decorated Airmen.

Today the Air Force has more than 30,000 people deployed worldwide with many more deployed in place, and more than 4,000 Airmen protecting America’s skies. In addition, the Air National Guard has more than 4,500 Airmen on the ground supporting Army taskings in detainee operations, convoys and as interrogators. If you couple that with our direct combat positions, search and rescue, medical and other support roles, it’s clear to see our Airmen are heavily engaged in winning this war. As Airmen, we have much to be proud of.

The level of sacrifice and risk a person must embrace in order to fulfill the mission can define the difference between an occupation and a calling. As Airmen, we understand that losing one’s life is an unfortunate possibility that comes with the calling of military service. We accept this fact, and honor those who give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. All of us receive training in Safety and Risk Management annually. Clearly we possess the education and capability to make the right decisions and to look after each other.

However, training and knowledge are not enough. Today’s operations tempo at home, and while deployed, can cause a great deal of stress, anxiety, and even grief for our Airmen and their families.

As any senior leader knows, you have to be able to recognize when you need reinforcements. These reinforcements can come in the form of calling out to a friend, supervisors, commander, or a trained professional such as the chaplain, social worker, or advocacy. The skills provided by these professionals can often make the difference.

That’s what Airmen do for each other. We all must be vigilant and take the time to care about those around us – Airmen take care of Airmen!

Fighting wars, deployments, force shaping and a myriad of other challenges make it more important than ever that we hone in on our people, and commit ourselves to caring for one another. To do that, we must build solid relationships between supervisors and subordinates, between co-workers, and within families.

This is not a new concept; we have the tools, we just need to ensure we’re using them. It comes down to basic roles and responsibilities of being good leaders. We need to start our new Airmen off right. For example, when an Airman first joins your unit, the immediate supervisor should embrace the role of sponsoring the new arrival and plan to spend time getting to know the Airmen around the base. Find out what their interests are and give them the tools for success in their new environments.

Delegating this important responsibility should be a last option. It’s vital to build a strong relationship between supervisors and subordinates – that means regular face-to-face communication. Make sure your feedback sessions are not driven just by the timelines in our regulations. Feedback, both positive and corrective, is vital to understanding the needs and stresses of today’s Airmen.

The leaders I respected most throughout my career were those who knew my name instead of, “Hey, Airman.” They took the time to know where I was from, my hobbies and certainly my goals. They took a vested interest in me by communicating and demonstrating that I was a valued member of the team. Good leaders go even further; they care about their employees.

The best leaders find creative ways to bring everyone together, including families for fun and fellowship. We are “family” and each member makes a valuable contribution. We would not be the world’s greatest Guard units without the hard work and daily sacrifice of every Airman.

I encourage each of you to return to the leadership position you held in the military and represent our state and nation and serve both well. I’m incredibly proud of your professionalism and commitment. Let’s continue to respect our heritage and future in this great Air Force by proudly calling each other “Airmen.”

Boeing donates $30K to relief fund

Photo by Tech. Sgt Nick Choy Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Dan O’Halleran, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (right) accepted $30,000 on behalf of the Oregon Oregon Emergency Relief Fund from Boeing representative Jerry Thompson on Jan. 23 at the Boeing facility in Troutdale. A portion of the money was raised during the Healing Fields event held at Salem Riverfront Park, Sept. 8-11, 2006. At the event in Troutdale, the Flag of Honor, Flag of Heroes, and the 9-11 flag were unveiled. The Flag of Honor lists all the names of those killed on 9-11, while the Flag of Heroes lists all those who perished attempting to rescue victims trapped in the World Trade Center in New York City.

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April is sexual assault awareness month

Story by Lt. Col. Manzly K. Woodward, ORANG Safety Manager

The Department of Defense takes a stand against sexual assault as it observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year’s theme is “Stand Up Against Sexual Assault…Make a Difference.” This theme encompasses an attitude toward prevention of this crime, reminding each of us that we can make a difference though our actions.

DoD seeks to establish a climate of confidence through education and training to create an environment in which sexual assault, and any other crimes that promote it, are not tolerated; victims receive care and support they need; and offenders are held accountable for their actions.

The ORNG Provides and program implement the DoD, DA, and DAF Directives. Each brigade and wing has a trained Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) to provide support to victims and assist their educational training. Currently, we have one trained victim advocate (VA), Staff Sgt. Stacey Smith at JFHQ, other VAs will be selected at battalions’ wings. Additionally, information will be published, or you may contact your respective SARC, check our webpage at http://inside.oregonguard.com - look for the Sexual Assault Prevention link, or contact the Program Manager, Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward at 503-584-3917.

ORNG SAPS Program PO’s

JFHQ - Lt. Col. M. Woodward
82 BDE - Maj. R. Gloria
72 BDE - Maj. S. Stephan
412 FW - Maj. M. Mazzia
173 FW - Capt. L. Ritter

Army service can be extended with waiver

For enlisted Army National Guard Soldiers, turning 60 may not mean a mandatory retirement anymore.

The National Guard Bureau Personnel Policy and Readiness Division recently announced that Soldiers may request a waiver to stay on duty past age 60. According to the newly revised policy, state adjutants general may approve waivers for up to two years beyond age 60 for traditional Army National Guard Soldiers. For extensions beyond age 62, and for those serving in Active Guard and Reserve positions, requests must be forwarded to NGB for approval.

Requests for a waiver must include a formal request from the Soldier. Additionally, the request needs to contain a strong recommendation from the Soldier’s chain of command, including the state adjutant general, stating why the Soldier should be retained as well as a current physical examination, cardiopulmonary screening and completed DA Forms 7349, 705 and 5500. However, those Soldiers who have already submitted an application for retirement may not request a waiver.

For more information, contact our TSGLI Army.mil or visit the Traumatic Servicemembers’ Group Life Division at 1-800-237-1336.

TSGLI insurance helps service members and families recover from traumatic injuries

Traumatic Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) is a new insurance benefit enacted by Congress to help traumatically injured service members and their families with a one-time, tax-free payment of up to $100,000. The money a service member receives through TSGLI could go far toward helping their family be with them during recovery, assisting with unforeseen expenses, or giving a service member and family a chance to start life after recovery.

TSGLI helps service members from all components - Active, Reserve and National Guard. Those who are covered by Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI), and also covered by TSGLI for qualifying trauma. A traumatic injury is an injury or loss caused by application of external force or violence. TSGLI is not just for combat-related injuries, it covers service members anytime, anywhere. Qualifying traumatic injuries incurred after December 1, 2005 are covered under TSGLI regardless of where they occurred.

TSGLI coverage is retroactive for qualifying injuries incurred October 7, 2001 through December 1, 2005. If the event occurred in theater supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom or in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) area.

For more information, visit www.tsgli.army.mil or contact the Traumatic Servicemembers’ Group Life Division at 1-800-237-1336.

Changes to DoD Reserve Component Force Management Policy:

- In the future deployments will be managed on a unit basis, no longer on individuals, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.
- DoD will reduce the maximum mobilization timeframe to one year, no longer 18 months.
- INVOLUNTARY mobilization of Guard/ Reserves will remain a one-year mobilization to five-year mobilized ratio. However, today’s global demands will require a number of secondary Guard/Reserve units to be recertified sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to mobilization ratio remains the goal of DoD, as does the active component’s ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.
- DoD will establish a new program to compensate individuals in both active and reserve component forces that are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratios. This will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.
- DoD will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship waiver program, to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed service members.

New policy for mobilizations will improve unit readiness, cohesiveness

Continued from FRONT PAGE
certification prior to mobilization provides
extra stimulus for the Department of Defense to focus on re-equipping Guard units after they return from overseas deployments.

"It will mean that resources and equipment will have to move to the National Guard pre-mobilization so that we are ready when we’re called to mobilize for that one year," Blum told the officials.

Unit readiness would be enhanced by the new policy specifying that whole units, rather than individuals, would be called up. Soldiers also complained about the tendency of cobbling mobilized units together from many sources, destroying the cohesion that was built up in peacetime.

"The new mobilization policy detailed by Secretary Gates was universally accepted and sincerely appreciated by the governors, as commanders in chief, and their adjutants general will take on greater roles in preparing, readying and certifying their forces prior to mobilization," said Blum.

Additionally, the need to conduct cer-

TSGLI insurance helps service members and families recover from traumatic injuries

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The Oregon Sentinel

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to ensure better coverage.

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique Oregon National Guard units and their accomplishments. All letters must be typewritten or handwritten on plain white paper; no illustrations or cartoons. In print or online, all letters must be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed and submitted when possible. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the Oregon Sentinel staff members listed below.

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Nguyen had “the heart of a citizen” serving with professionalism, pride

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - After being deployed for 18 months often the first thing a Soldier’s mind is reconnecting with family and friends. But re-adjusting to life at home may not be as easy as one may expect.

“When we come back from theater we clean our weapons and make sure they are serviceable and turn them in to the armories – are we doing that for our Soldiers also?” asked Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques, member of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

To help facilitate a smooth transition back to civilian life, the Oregon National Guard created the Reintegration Team, made up of Soldiers and retired servicemembers dedicated to helping returning Soldiers with everything from job placement and career counseling to referrals for emotional counseling.

“Oregon is the only state in the nation that combines not only a fully staffed reintegration program but also a fully staffed career transition program,” said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, also of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

At a recent conference, nine states were brought together to discuss their respective Reintegration Teams. Maas said it was a chance to connect with others doing the same job and discuss strategies.

“Oregon is one of those states that has an exceptional program and was asked to share their success stories with the rest of the states,” said Maas.

“I think the thing he liked is that Oregon brought together federal, state, and county agencies on board, and actually got them to work together,” said Maas.

A conference, called the Re-entry/Reintegration Workshop took place November 28-30 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Major General Young said members of the Oregon Reintegration Team have been selected to help refine the best practices into a plan that will be shared nationwide in 2007.

“Oregon will have membership on the team, working group and will have significant input to the final product,” said Young.

The knowledge and experience the Team gained while helping Oregon Soldiers will now go on to help Soldiers in all states, nationwide. It’s an honor for the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team not to lightly take.

“It’s one of the most rewarding things I’ve done in my career – coming back here and helping Soldiers get back on their feet if they need it,” said Jacques.

“Overall, pulling away the propaganda of war and looking at the bright side of everything in life. Staff Sgt. Estes will be greatly missed.”

Memorial services were held on Feb. 21 at the INB Performing Arts Center, in Spokane, Wash., attended by hundreds of law enforcement officers, traveling from all over the northwest and even Canada to pay final respects.

“By every one of you here you’ve come to say to the family that Mike’s life mattered, what was loved, what he did was important, it was significant,” said Pastor Bob Smith.

Deputy Estes was the first member of the Walla Walla Sheriff’s Office to die in the line of duty in the history of the department. His name will be added to the Spokane Law Enforcement Memorial in May alongside all other law enforcement officers who’ve died in the line of duty in Washington State.

Estes is survived by his father and mother, Orville and Judith Estes of Spokane, Wash., and two sisters.

Staff Sgt. Michael Estes prepares for physical training during deployment with Det. 1, 1186, Military Police in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

Staff Sgt. Michael Estes prepares for physical training during deployment with Det. 1, 1186, Military Police in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs